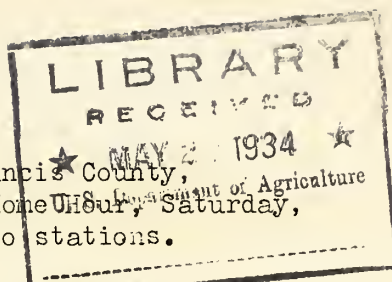


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FARM PRACTICES HAVE IMPROVED ON OUR FARM BECAUSE OF
4-H CLUB WORK



A radio talk by Benjamin Lee Holmes, club member, St. Francis County, Arkansas, delivered in the 4-H club program, National Farm and Home Hour, Saturday, May 5, 1934, and broadcast by a network of 58 associate NBC radio stations.

My story is simple - our farm small and our home humble. There are five children, two boys and three girls, active in our local 4-H club. I am the president of the club and have filled this office for three years. I am also the president of the St. Francis County 4-H Council. This is my sixth year in 4-H club work.

The first year I grew an acre of corn as a club project, using the methods and practices outlined by our agent. I produced thirty-six bushels of an improved type of corn. After deducting the cost of production a net profit of eighteen dollars remained.

The second year I grew two acres of corn and a Poland China pig as club projects. Using the knowledge and improved methods in corn production, along with field selected seed from my first acre, I harvested eighty bushels of corn. My Poland China gilt farrowed 5 pigs, three of which were sold to 4-H club boys at two dollars per head at weaning time, the other two being kept for the family meat supply. The net profit from this year's activities was seventy-five dollars.

My third and fourth years in club work found me growing five acres of corn, one acre of peanuts, continuing with my Poland China hogs and establishing a two-acre permanent pasture. The most outstanding accomplishments centered around my peanuts and hogs. My earnings were practically the same as the year before.

The fifth year I included cotton in my production projects and left our peanuts. This change made possible a net profit of one hundred dollars from crops grown - producing an ample supply of meat for home use, the sale of eight shoats for thirty-two dollars and the acreage increase of the permanent pasture from two to five acres.

At the present time I have a herd of fifteen hogs, five acres of corn, five acres of cotton - I have sufficient old corn on hand to meet my needs until new corn is made.

After sixteen years of share-cropping and renting, our parents were made to feel the influence of 4-H club work for the first time. Their faith in the great possibilities and opportunities thus afforded caused them to buy our fifty-five acre farm. Then there was nothing to prevent the children, as well as themselves from following the Extension Service "Live-at-Home" program.

Here is what has taken place on our farm because of the improved methods and practices taught on club plots and otherwise:

The per acre yields are higher as follows: cotton 50%; corn 60%; forage 75%; potatoes 35%; a year round garden instead of a spring garden; double the amount of sorghum formerly made from an acre of cane; better care of our live stock; three milk cows instead of none six years ago, and a five-acre permanent pasture; the former six-meat hogs killed annually producing 900 lbs are now dressing out 1800 pounds of meat; our poultry flock has increased from eight to fifty birds. After several vain attempts to grow a home orchard, a young orchard is well started. Truck patches are not neglected or omitted. The family canning budget has increased from
(over)

twenty containers consisting of a small variety of fruits to three hundred quarts of a large variety of both fruits and vegetables, meats and sweets: - a balanced canning budget.

Club work has improved my home life. Thrift habits and lessons in improved health and sanitation have made large contributions to the comfort, attractiveness and contentment therein afforded. I am attending High School as a direct result of encouragement, finance and inspiration coming from 4-H Club activities. The same can be said by my two sisters.

The five thousand 4-H club members of Arkansas fully appreciate what club work is doing for them. We are most grateful for this splendid system of teaching practical agriculture and home economics. I thank them for sending me here to tell this story on the air.

Let me urge 4-H club members everywhere to join us in the language of our motto -- "To make the best better" - to do and say:

"Good, Better, Best,
May we never rest
Until we make the Good better and the Better Best."

- I Thank You.